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The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A vehicle powertrain control system comprising:  
an electric motor drive system;  
an internal combustion engine operatively coupled to said electric motor drive system;  
a first battery coupled to said electric motor drive system;  
an electronically controlled [switched] switch coupled to said first battery;  
a second battery coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said first and second battery are directly electrically coupled at a common voltage level when said electronically controlled switch is closed; [and]  
wherein said electronically controlled switch isolates said first battery from said second battery upon startup of said internal combustion engine; and  
wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said second battery to supplement said first battery during select operating conditions.
2. (original) The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 1 further comprising a DC/DC converter coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said DC/DC converter to supplement said second battery.
3. (original) The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 1 wherein said electric motor drive system comprises an inverter coupled to an induction motor.
4. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said first battery comprises a lead acid battery.
5. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said second battery comprises a lead acid battery.

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6. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises a silicon conducting rectifier.

7. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises a transistor.

8. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises an electromechanical relay.

9. (currently amended) A vehicle powertrain control system comprising:  
an electric motor drive system;  
an internal combustion engine operatively coupled to said electric motor drive system;  
a first battery coupled to said electric motor drive system;  
a second battery coupled to a vehicle accessory system;  
an electronically controlled [switched] switch coupled to said first battery and said second battery;  
a DC/DC converter coupled to said electronically controlled switch; [and]  
wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said DC/DC converter to supplement said first battery, and wherein said DC/DC converter, said first battery, and said second battery share a common electrical reference when said electronically controlled switch is closed; and  
wherein said electronically controlled switch isolates said first battery from said second battery during starting of said internal combustion engine.

10. (original) The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 9 [further comprising a second battery coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said second battery to supplement said first battery] wherein said electric motor drive system includes an inverter.

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11. (currently amended) A vehicle powertrain control system comprising:

an electric motor drive system;

a first battery coupled to said electric motor drive system;

an electronically controlled [switched] switch coupled to said first battery;

a second battery coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said first and second battery operate at substantially the same voltage at a common electrical connection when said electronically controlled switch is closed; [and]

wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said second battery to supplement said first battery during a first operating condition; and

wherein said electronically controlled switch isolates said first battery from said second battery upon startup of said internal combustion engine.